

SITUATION REPORT NO. 8
INCIDENT NO. 2000-016
DATE: June 15, 2000 TIME: 1:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flooding – Due to a series of thunderstorms since June 12 and high water tables, resulting from seven years of consecutive flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service (NWS) this morning issued a revised forecast for the Turtle River at Manvel, which calls for the river to crest between 16 to 17.5 feet in Manvel later today or Friday. (Earlier forecasts placed the level at 14 to 17 feet.) The level of the Turtle River at Manvel measured 14.19 feet this morning; the river rose 1.3 feet during a 12-hour period. Because much of the water has exceeded the river's banks, much of the overflow has back-flowed into Kelly's Slough, which officials say will reduce or slow the flow into Manvel.

Reports from the Grand Forks Office of the NWS indicate that a storm system, moving northwest to southeast through the state, will bring one-quarter inch of rain, with isolated areas of one-half inch of precipitation, to flood-impacted areas. Thunderstorms will develop along and south of Valley City to Fargo to Wadena with showers expected over the remaining area.

Staff at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Grand Forks reported that a "sandbag central" operation is taking place at a Manvel area business. Volunteers worked until 1:30 a.m. on June 15. South of Northwood, sandbaggers worked until 4:00 a.m. The last mile of County Road 18 is inundated, and township roads are closed. The area that normally drains into Grand Forks County Drain 12 failed; water traveled east toward Manvel, subsequently flooding county roads. The drain has since been repaired. Meanwhile, water continues to recede in the Larimore and Gilby areas. Authorities have advised no travel for the Mekinock area.

This morning, the NWS continued its flood warning for the Goose River and its tributaries, from the city of Portland north. The river has left its banks in northeast Steele County and was covering N.D. Highway 18. In south Grand Forks County, one to five feet of Goose River waters were flowing over County Road 23, two miles south of County Road 15. Excessive rainfall over the past few days has

caused significant runoff into the upper reaches of the Goose River in southwest Grand Forks and northeast Steele Counties.

Forecasts issued by the Grand Forks Office of the NWS indicate that the Park River in Grafton will stay below flood stage, but the Forest River will rise to 7.1 feet, 1.1 feet above its flood stage at Minto. Walsh County officials are monitoring the Turtle River where it enters the Red River near Oslo. The Red River rose one foot in 8.5 hours yesterday. The county is also monitoring the amount of water in Grand Forks County Drain 12; this drain may bring water to the Ardoch area and into Lake Ardoch on the Forest River.

Wells County officials describe land south of N.D. Highway 15 as “one big lake” resulting from widespread flooding. Floodwaters have inundated north-south roads, requiring law enforcement and road crews to redirect traffic. Virtually all county and township roads in the southern half of Wells County have been impacted. It appears that hundreds of road culverts have been washed out, including 150 in a six-mile area. Initial reports indicated that up to 200 basements could be flooded or damaged. In Bowdon and rural areas, 40 homes have basement or first floor flooding. At least three basements have either collapsed or are starting to fall.

In Walsh County, road and drainage ditches are running full and only minimal use roads with Texas crossing have been closed. However, gravel roads throughout the county are very saturated and soft, and most remain too wet to assess damages. In Grafton, football equipment was damaged after water entered the locker room area of the Centennial Center (hockey rink). Officials at the Law Enforcement Center reported that the roof had several leaks.

On June 13, a tornado was spotted 1.5 miles west of Cleveland in Stutsman County. Reports indicated that the tornado was on the ground for at least five minutes, but passed through hilly areas and open farmland. No damages have been reported. Communities in the northwest portion of the tornado were warned of the oncoming tornado.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: In addition to previous reports, the Jamestown Amateur Radio Club provided assistance during tornadic activity in Stutsman County.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross has been assisting with sandbag operations in Manvel. The Red Cross has opened service centers in Emerado and Manvel to provide meals to residents and workers.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Staff at the Grand Forks EOC have issued news releases outlining precautions residents should take when re-entering flooded buildings and instructions on pumping water out of flooded basements. Altru Hospital in Grand Forks has a 24-hour ambulance on site in Manvel, and the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office has staged a county water reserve with boats and trucks. Four engineers and two sandbagging machines have been assigned to the Manvel area.

Repairs have taken place to a water main break in Grafton now that water has receded from city streets.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: With the exception of continuing technical support, no additional assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Officials and staff representing the N.D. State Water Commission, N.D. Department of Transportation, North Dakota Highway Patrol, the Governor's Office, N.D. Department of Human Services and North Dakota Emergency Management have been in the impacted area at various times.
9. OTHER: Additional reports will follow as information on damages and impacts become available.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is:
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director